

She has accepted and carried out this role with grace and excellence.

Out of her passion for service, Mrs. Foote's involvement extends beyond the classroom. She is active in fundraising activities to benefit the English Language Learner population, as well as readily answering calls for help after school hours. It is not uncommon for Mrs. Foote to go above and beyond for the families of Okaloosa County, as she places their needs before her own. The significant improvement and learning gains demonstrated by students working with Mrs. Foote truly exemplify her steadfast commitment to excellence and desire for her students to succeed. Instructors like Mrs. Foote leave a perpetual impact on their schools and community.

Mrs. Foote's efforts and hard work have not gone unnoticed. She has been widely recognized and honored for her accomplishments in the school and community and is the recipient of several awards, including Service Beyond the Call of Duty awarded by Northwest Florida State College and Taking the Lead Organizing Projects awarded by AmeriCorps.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Maria Foote on her achievements and contributions to the Okaloosa County School District. She is a dedicated teacher, an inspiration to her students, and an honorable public servant. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating Mrs. Foote, and we wish her all the best for continued success.

IN HONOR OF THE SALINAS VALLEY MEMORIAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 15, 2013

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System on its sixtieth anniversary of caring for the health needs of Monterey County. Community leaders began fundraising for a new hospital in 1941. World War II postponed those efforts. They resumed in 1947, after the State of California passed an act allowing taxation districts to be established in local communities for the building of hospitals. All funding for the hospital was local; no state or federal funds were used in the project.

The hospital was named Salinas Valley Memorial to honor the memory of "the men and women of the armed forces who made the supreme sacrifice for their community and their nation." It opened on April 20, 1953 with 138 beds, 100 employees and 45 physicians. President Dwight D. Eisenhower sent a letter of congratulations in which he wrote, the "People of Salinas have every right to be proud of this admirable example of local self-reliance and initiative." Roy Diaz, who survived the Bataan Death March, was in attendance at the dedication; he still lives in the area and will help Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System celebrate its anniversary.

The hospital was state-of-the-art when it opened. Still, the advancements in technology over the next twenty-five years were greater than the founders could have imagined. Partnerships with universities and other healthcare organizations like Visiting Nurses and Doctors On Duty allow Salinas Valley Memorial to expand and deliver world-class health care into communities across the Central Coast. It is currently licensed for 269 acute care beds. Today there are more than 1,600 employees with more than 250 physicians on staff.

The hospital has won numerous awards for its cardiac care center from such organizations as the American Heart Association and Blue Cross/Blue Shield. In 2011, it was honored as being one of only 110 U.S. hospitals given the international designation of baby-friendly by the World Health Organization and UNICEF.

Mr. Speaker, I know the whole House joins me in congratulating Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System on its anniversary, and wish them many more years of quality service to the public.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MINERVA JOHNICAN

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 15, 2013

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a champion for the rights of women, a leader in her community and a stalwart for Civil Rights, Minerva Johnican, who passed away in her hometown of Memphis, Tennessee. I was proud to call her my friend and she will be greatly missed throughout the City of Memphis.

Minerva was born in Memphis on November 16, 1938 and was the sixth of seven children to John Bruce and Annie B. Johnican. She attended Hamilton Elementary and High School and began her college studies at Central State College in Ohio before graduating from Tennessee State University in 1960.

After graduating from college, Minerva earned her certificate in library science from the University of Memphis in 1965. She served in the Memphis City Schools system as a teacher and librarian for a total of 18 years, and later, she became the head librarian at Colonial Elementary School. She was always active in politics. However, her interest crystallized in 1967 when she was driving home from school and heard on the radio that a group of ministers were maced while marching for the rights of sanitation workers in downtown Memphis. From this experience, she became an instrumental member of Citizens on the Move for Equality, which advocated for higher wages for sanitation workers. In 1971, she founded the Inner City Voter Education Committee that helped inner-city 18-year-olds register to vote. During this time, she also founded the Volunteer Women's Round Table, which was a coalition of women from different racial backgrounds who worked

to support women in the Democratic Party. Additionally, in a sign of her future political aspirations, Minerva worked on Shirley Chisholm's presidential campaign.

Over the next 15 years, Minerva's political accomplishments broke several glass ceilings for African-Americans and women. In 1975, Minerva became the first woman to serve on the Shelby County Quarterly Court, now called the Shelby County Commission, and held this seat for two four-year terms. I was honored to work with her on the Board of Commissioners and one of our proudest achievements was establishing the MED Hospital when others wanted a smaller hospital. In 1983, she became the first African-American elected to represent an at-large district on the Memphis City Council. As a City Councilwoman, she founded the Building Better Bridges for Memphis Task Force, which encouraged African-Americans and Caucasians in Memphis to work together on community problems. In 1987, Minerva came in second in a six-way race for city mayor. Not to be discouraged from public office, in 1990, she became the first African-American and the first woman to be elected Shelby County Criminal Court Clerk. During her time as County Clerk, she automated the Clerk's office and implemented computers to maintain records, making it easier and more efficient to serve the needs of Memphians and staff. Her vision for improving the County Clerk's Office earned three national awards.

After leaving office in 1994, Minerva worked as a managing loan officer at Mid-America Mortgage and transferred her skills into opening up her own company, OMO Mortgage Financial Services. Although she no longer served in a public office, her passion for public service and community involvement continued. She was a vital member and supporter of my campaigns in 2006 and 2008 and she served as Co-Campaign Manager for Herman Morris's mayoral run. Minerva also served on the board of directors for the Mid-South Muscular Dystrophy Association, Mid-South Chapter of the ACLU, NAACP, and numerous other organizations.

Throughout her public and private sector work, Minerva received countless recognition for her diligence and commitment to the city of Memphis. The Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis honored her with the Legends Award in 2009. In addition, she was awarded with the Distinguished Leadership Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews, History Makers Award from the National Council of Negro Women, and the NAACP Life Membership.

Sadly, Minerva lost her battle with cancer on Friday, March 8, 2013 at 74 years of age. She will be remembered as a pioneer for her tireless public service at a time when women were not expected to take a leading role. Her dedication to improving her community is unparalleled. Minerva's passion led her to take risks during an era of heightened racial tensions and to encourage people from across racial lines to work together for the betterment of the city. Hers was a life well-lived. Thank you, Minerva, for coming our way.